**Impact of Sustainable Intensification on Landscapes and Livelihoods (ISILL)**

**Overview of May 2014 Introductory Workshops**

**Project Introductory Workshops**

Location: Mfuwe and Lusaka

Dates: 13 and 15 May 2014

The USAID Africa Bureau is providing support to Africa RISING (funded by the USAID Bureau for Food Security) for a study that advances the understanding of the landscape-level implications of farm-level sustainable intensification activities in Zambia, and informs the design of future integrated projects that address food security, climate change and biodiversity issues. The objective of this study is to provide an evidence base for the linkages between field- and farm-scale sustainable intensification interventions and climate change mitigation and biodiversity conservation in Zambia. The pilot sites for the study will be Eastern and Lusaka Provinces in Zambia. The study will be implemented by Michigan State University researchers, under the leadership of Dr. Robert Richardson, Department of Community Sustainability, in collaboration with IITA, CIMMYT, CIFOR, and key national partners in Zambia.

The 12-month project began on 1 April 2014, and will include four primary activities, as follows:

* A review of literature on agricultural-environmental linkages, and the impacts of sustainable agricultural intensification
* An inventory of data sets in Zambia that can provide evidence of agricultural-environmental linkages (including household survey, spatial, and demographic data)
* Development of a participatory systems dynamics model that will provide the foundation of an integrated framework of agricultural-environmental linkages
* Analysis of spatial data for the development of maps and other images that represent changes in land use over time and the impacts of sustainable intensification practices

We will hold two project kickoff workshops in each of the two pilot sites; the Eastern Province workshop will be held in Mfuwe on 13 May, and the Lusaka Province workshop will be held in Lusaka on 15 May. These workshops aim to introduce partners to the project objectives and to develop materials that will inform the design of a participatory systems dynamics modeling workshop to be held in August 2014. The objectives of the May 2014 introductory workshops are as follows:

1. Introduce stakeholder partners to the project and begin to understand their main needs/concerns around benefits and challenges of sustainable intensification
2. Introduce stakeholder partners to the methods used in this project, including system dynamics (SD) and causal loop diagramming (CLD)
3. Diagram the ways in which stakeholder partners conceptualize their work and the problems they face in the context of sustainable intensification, farmer livelihoods, and environmental conservation
4. Begin to identify levers of change to address these problems and improve metrics in sustainable intensification, farmer livelihoods, and environmental quality
5. Develop materials (diagrams, causal tables, key variables, and data sources) that will inform the construction of the initial CLD/SD model to be presented at the August workshop